

REMARKS

Claim 4 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3, 7, 11 and 12 have been amended. Support for the amendments to independent claims 1, 7 and 12 can be found at least in original claim 4, and in the specification, on page 14, line 18 to page 15, line 9. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-3 and 5-12 are pending.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite, and in particular for insufficient basis for certain limitations. The amendment to claim 11 to depend from claim 7 instead of claim 6 addresses the antecedent basis issues raised in the Office Action, and applicants submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 has been overcome.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-2, 5 and 7-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,991,010 to Nishio (“Nishio”). Claims 4, 6 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Nishio in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,761,575 to Kimoto (“Kimoto”). Claims 3 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Nishio in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,961,136 to Ogura et al. (“Ogura”). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites “the power supply control unit stops the power supply to the photoelectric conversion unit in accordance with the notification of the power saving mode received from the external device via the interface.” Nishio and Kimoto fail to disclose at least this feature of claim 1, or the advantages attendant thereto.

The Patent Office recognizes that Nishio fails to disclose the above quoted feature of amended claim 1, which was incorporated from dependent claim 4, but relies on Kimoto for

disclosing such a feature. Applicants submit that Kimoto fails to cure the deficiencies of Nishio.

Kimoto discloses in FIG. 6 a schematic diagram of the digital copying machine of FIG. 1 (col. 12, lines 1-3). The digital copying machine is shown schematically in FIG. 6 as being composed of four CPUs, a main CPU 132 within the main control portion 130, a panel CPU 152 within operating panel 150, a scanner CPU 162 of scanner portion 26, and printer CPU 182 of printer portion 11 (col. 12, lines 4-8). A power saving key 159 of the operating panel 150 of the copying machine may be turned on, whereby a power saving start command is transmitted to the printer CPU (col. 16, lines 45-50).

Nowhere, however, does Kimoto disclose or suggest the feature of "the power supply control unit stops the power supply to the photoelectric conversion unit in accordance with the notification of the power saving mode received from the external device via the interface," where the power saving mode is the power saving mode of the external device. Rather, Kimoto merely discloses that a power saving start command is transmitted to the printer portion 11 of the copying machine based on the power saving key 159 of the operating panel 150 of the copying machine being turned on. The operating panel 150, however, is not external to the copying machine of Kimoto, nor does the operating panel 150 itself go into power saving mode based on turning on the power-saving key 159. Rather, the printer portion 11 of the copying machine goes into a power saving mode. Thus, even if Nishio and Kimoto were combined, the combination would not have all the features of claim 1.

Moreover, Nishio and Kimoto fail to suggest the advantages of the image reading apparatus of claim 1 where "the power supply control unit stops the power supply to the photoelectric conversion unit in accordance with the notification of the power saving mode received from the external device via the interface." Such a feature reduces overall power

consumption automatically when the external device goes into a power saving mode. For example, when an external device, such as a PC (personal computer) is connected to the image reading apparatus, it is desirable that when the PC goes into the power saving mode, the photoelectric conversion unit should automatically and simultaneously go into the power saving mode, thus reducing unnecessary power consumption (See instant specification, page 14, line 26 to page 15, line 9). This benefit is not achieved by the structures of Nishio and Kimoto.

Independent claims 7 and 12 respectively recite “wherein the power supply control unit stops the power supply to the photoelectric conversion unit in accordance with the notification of the power saving mode received from the external device via the interface,” and “wherein the power supply control unit stops the power supply to a photoelectric conversion unit in accordance with the notification of the power saving mode received from the external device via the interface,” and are thus patentable for reasons analogous to claim 1.

The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as their respective independent claims, as well as for further patentable features recited therein.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect

information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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